The two cooperative societies in the fertilizer sector viz. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, (IFFCO) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, (KRIBHCO) have concluded wage revision for their non-executive staff.

**Sponge Iron Plants in Orissa**

2535. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sponge iron plants set up in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to set up some new sponge iron plants in that State;

(c) if so, the places identified for the location of the new sponge iron plants; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There are two sponge iron plants located in the state of Orissa.

(b) The Union Government do not propose to set up a new sponge iron plant in the State of Orissa.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

**Pendency applications for Issuing OBC Certificates**

536. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications for issuing Caste Certificate to persons belonging to OBC by Delhi Administration are pending for about six months in the New Delhi area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the pending cases for issuing OBC Certificates will be made upto date in all respects?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**मध्य प्रदेश में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों का खोला जाना**

2537. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा:
श्री अजीत जोगी:

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के किन-किन जिलों में भारत सरकार कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र खोलने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के दमोह जिले के जनजातीय बहुत विकास खंड तेन्दूखेड़ा में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र स्थापित किया जायेगा; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह किस वित्तीय वर्ष में स्थापित किया जायेगा?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस. कृष्ण कुमार): (क) वर्ष 1995-96 में मध्य प्रदेश के रायगढ़, बेतल और रतलाम जिलों में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों के खोले जाने की सम्भावना है बशर्ते की इसके लिए निधि उपलब्ध हो।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

**All India Average Capacity Utilization of Steel Industry**

2538. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the all India average capacity utilization of steel industry in India and what is the projected gap between the availability and demand for steel at the end of Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that per capita consumption of steel in India among the lowest in the world and far below the world average; and

(c) the factors inhibiting the growth of steel industry and its expansion plans and whether any overseas investor has offered to fianance a large sized steel unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Average capacity utilisation of steel industry in India, in terms of saleable steel, during 1994-95 was about 79% As against the projected demand (including demand for export of 24.14 million tonnes of finished steel at the end of Eighth Plan period i.e. 1996-97, the expected